

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA
NORTHERN DIVISION

JOHN INMAN (AIS# 234821),

*

Plaintiff,

*

*

V.

*

2:05-CV-526-T

STATE OF ALABAMA, ET AL.

*

Defendants.

*

ANSWER

COMES NOW Defendant Prison Health Services, Inc. (incorrectly named in Plaintiff's Complaint as "Prisons Health Systems") (hereinafter "PHS") for Answer to the Plaintiff's Complaint herein, and say as follows:

1. PHS denies each and every material allegation contained in the Plaintiff's Complaint and demands strict proof thereof.
2. PHS pleads not guilty to the charges in the Plaintiff's Complaint.
3. The Plaintiff's Complaint fails to state a claim against PHS for which relief can be granted.
4. PHS affirmatively denies any and all alleged claims by the Plaintiff.
5. The Plaintiff is not entitled to any relief requested in the Complaint.
6. PHS pleads the defense of qualified immunity and avers that the actions taken by them were reasonable and in good faith with reference to clearly established law at the time of the incidents complained of by the Plaintiff.

7. PHS is entitled to qualified immunity and it is clear from the face of the Complaint that the Plaintiff has not alleged specific facts indicating that PHS has violated any clearly established constitutional right.

8. PHS cannot be held liable on the basis of *respondeat superior*, agency, or vicarious liability theories.

9. The Plaintiff is not entitled to any relief under 42 U.S.C. § 1983.

10. The allegations contained in the Plaintiff's Complaint against PHS, sued in its individual capacity, fail to comply with the heightened specificity requirement of Rule 8 in § 1983 cases against persons sued in their individual capacities. See Oladeinde v. City of Birmingham, 963 F.2d 1481, 1485 (11th Cir. 1992); Arnold v. Board of Educ. Of Escambia County, 880 F.2d 305, 309 (11th Cir. 1989).

11. PHS pleads all applicable immunities, including, but not limited to qualified, absolute, discretionary function immunity, and state agent immunity.

12. PHS avers that it was at all times acting under color of state law and, therefore, it is entitled to substantive immunity under the law of the State of Alabama.

13. PHS pleads the general issue.

14. This Court lacks subject matter jurisdiction due to the fact that even if Plaintiff's allegations should be proven, the allegations against PHS would amount to mere negligence which is not recognized as a deprivation of the Plaintiff's constitutional rights. See Rogers v. Evans, 792 F.2d 1052 (11th Cir. 1986).

15. The Plaintiff's claims against PHS in its official capacity are barred by the Eleventh Amendment to the United States Constitution.

16. Alabama law provides tort and other remedies for the allegations made by the Plaintiff herein and such remedies are constitutionally adequate.

17. PHS pleads the defense that at all times in treating Plaintiff it exercised the same degree of care, skill, and diligence as other health care providers would have exercised under similar circumstances, and that at no time did it act towards the Plaintiff with deliberate indifference to any serious medical need.

18. PHS pleads the affirmative defense that the Plaintiff's Complaint fails to contain a detailed specification and factual description of the acts and omissions alleged to render it liable to the Plaintiff as required by § 6-5-551 of the Ala. Code (1993).

19. PHS pleads the affirmative defenses of contributory negligence and assumption of the risk.

20. PHS pleads the affirmative defense that Plaintiff's damages, if any, were the result of an independent, efficient, and/or intervening cause.

21. PHS pleads the affirmative defense that it is not responsible for the policies and procedures of the Alabama Department of Corrections.

22. PHS pleads the affirmative defense that the Plaintiff has failed to mitigate his own damages.

23. PHS pleads the affirmative defense that it is not guilty of any conduct which would justify the imposition of punitive damages against it and that any such award would violate the United States Constitution.

24. PHS adopts and asserts all defenses set forth in the Alabama Medical Liability Act § 6-5-481, et seq., and § 6-5-542, et seq.

25 The Plaintiff has failed to exhaust his administrative remedies as mandated by the Prison Litigation Reform Act amendment to 42 U.S.C. § 1997e(a). The Plaintiff has failed to pursue the administrative remedies available to him. See Cruz v. Jordan, 80 F. Supp. 2d 109 (S.D. N.Y. 1999) (claims concerning defendants' deliberate indifference to a medical need is an action "with respect to prison conditions" and is thus governed by exhaustion requirement).

26. The Prison Litigation Reform Act amendment to 42 U.S.C. § 1997(e)(c) mandates the dismissal of the Plaintiff's claims herein as this action is frivolous, malicious, fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted, or seeks money damages from PHS who is entitled to immunity.

27. The Plaintiff's claims are barred by the Prison Litigation Reform Act of 1995, 42 U.S.C. §1997(e).

28. The Plaintiff has failed to comply with 28 U.S.C. § 1915 with respect to the requirements and limitations inmates must follow in filing *in forma pauperis* actions in federal court.

29. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915 A, this Court is requested to screen and dismiss this case, as soon as possible, either before or after docketing, as this case is frivolous or malicious, fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted, or seeks money damages from PHS who is a state officer entitled to immunity as provided for in 42 U.S.C. § 1997 (e)(c).

30. PHS asserts that the Plaintiff's Complaint is frivolous and filed in bad faith solely for the purpose of harassment and intimidation and request this Court

pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1988 to award PHS reasonable attorney's fees and costs incurred in the defense of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

s/L. Peyton Chapman, III
Alabama State Bar Number CHA060
s/R. Brett Garrett
Alabama State Bar Number GAR085
Attorneys for Defendant Prison
Health Services, Inc.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certified that I have mailed via U.S. mail, properly addressed and first-class postage prepaid, the foregoing document this the 13th day of September, 2005, to the following:

John Inman AIS#234821
Frank Lee Youth Center
P.O. Box 220410 Dorm 1-70
Deatsville, AL 36022

s/R. Brett Garrett
Alabama State Bar Number GAR085